



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2013

HUDBAY MINERALS SEEKS TO EVICT MATHIAS COLOMB CREE NATION FROM TRADITIONAL LANDS AND THREATEN CHIEF WITH JAIL TERM

Winnipeg, Manitoba - March 18, 2013 On March 15, 2013, Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting Co. (HUDBAY), Limited (Hudbay) served a Notice of Motion on Chief Arlen Dumas and the people of Mathias Colomb Cree Nation (MCCN) seeking an injunction to halt any further gatherings at two separate mining sites. MCCN held peaceful gatherings on January 28 and March 5, 2013 to draw attention to the failure of Manitoba government and HUDBAY to consult with MCCN on the extraction of resources from their traditional and ancestral lands. Instead of meeting to discuss the issues, HUDBAY has decided to sue MCCN for millions of dollars in alleged damages.

Grand Chief Derek Nepinak said, "I support MCCN in their efforts to protect their lands and waters from unwelcome, non-consensual exploitation by HUDBAY. The failure of the province of Manitoba and HUDBAY executives to respect the Inherent and Treaty rights of MCCN is a direct violation of Section 35 of Canada's Constitution Act 1982. This is not an issue between hard-working employees of HUDBAY and MCCN. HUDBAY executives and the province of Manitoba must work with MCCN to balance their profit lines, with the thorough fulfillment of their legal responsibilities owed to the people in their traditional lands. This is what implementing the Treaty Relationship is all about and unfortunately Manitoba's consultation policy continues to fall well short of national legal and international standards."

Grand Chief Murray Clearsky said, "The province of Manitoba and HUDBAY have both failed to come to the table in good faith. In accordance with MCCN law, both treaty partners have a responsibility to protect the lands and waters as well as share in the wealth created from the resources on the land. Manitoba and HUDBAY have failed to talk to MCCN and thus violate the legal responsibility to obtain the free, informed and prior consent as required by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). SCO supports MCCN people to ensure their Aboriginal, Treaty and Inherent Rights are respected."



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Grand Chief David Harper said, “These heavy-handed actions by HUDBAY, supported by the Manitoba Government, demonstrate the lack of good faith on their part which will maintain First Nations in perpetual poverty”. He added, “HUDBAY and the Manitoba government have an opportunity to rise to the occasion of changing status quo which now appears dismal through such legal proceedings. We hope that HUDBAY and the province of Manitoba will reassess their positions and do the right thing.”

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